(ख) से (घ) वर्तमान निर्यात और आयात नीति के अंतर्गत, तेलहन का आयात वाध्यमीकृत ढंग से जारी है। निर्यात और आयात नीति की समीक्षा, लगातार की जाती रहती है और इसमें परिवर्तन, मांग और आपूर्ति, घरेलू उत्पादन, भविष्य में अनुमानित मांग और उत्पादकों और प्रयोक्ता उद्योग के हितों जैसे विभिन्न कारणों को ध्यान में रखकर, समय-समय पर किए जाते हैं।

Export of Mangoes

4012. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to boost export of Mangoes in great demand in international market; and

(b) the role of Andhra Pradesh in export of Mangoes this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The Government has taken various measures to boost export of mangoes and other horticultural products. These include:—

(i) Supply of quality planting material and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on integrated development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment,

(iii) Provision of financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(v) Establishment of a vapour heat treatment facility for improving the acceptability of the product, especially mangoes, in overseas markets.

(vi) Arranging promotional campaigns in the potential markets overseas *including buyer-seller meets* with focus on mangoes, and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

(b) Andhra Pradesh is a major producer of mangoes and hence it could contribute substantially to the exports of mangoes. Export of mangoes (Banganpalli and Totapuri) from Andhra Pradesh by sea during the current crop season in CA and refrigerated container, to markets in South East Asia, Middle East and Europe is being undertaken on an experimental basis. Exporters from Andhra Pradesh are expected to participate in the buyer-seller meet on mangoes being planned to be organised in South East Asian countries this year.

Contract with Pakistan for Supply of Sugar

4013. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether STC had entered into contract with Pakistan for export of 25 thousand tonnes of sugar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that STC has failed to adhere to the contracted schedule and Pakistan has warned of revoking the contract;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the reasons for failure of the STC to fulfil its contractual obligation for the supply of sugar to Pakistan; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issues involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) STC offered to export 25,000 MTs of sugar to Trading Corporation of Pakistan on the condition of availability of the Indian Railway rakes and acceptance thereof by Pakistan Railways. Two rakes with a load of approximate 3643 MTs

were cleared by the Indian customs within the validity period of Letter of Credit i.e. 22nd Jan. 1997. STC, thereafter, could not export the remaining quantity of sugar to Pakistan due to operational problems of non-availability of Railway rakes as well as non-extension of further validity of Letter of Credit by Trading Corporation of Pakistan, which expired on 22nd Jan, 1997.

व्यापार घाटा

4014. श्री गोविन्दराम मिर्धा: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चालू वर्ष के दौरान देश का व्यापार घाटा 5 बिलियन डॉलर के बिन्दु को छू गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके लिए उत्तरदायी कारक कौन-कौन से हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रामैया): (क) जी जी सी आई एण्ड एस, कलकत्ता के आधार नवीनतम व्यापार आंकड़े (सांप्रेक्षित) अप्रैल-मार्च, 1996-97 (अनंतिम) की अवधि के लिए उपलब्ध हैं। इस सूचना के आधार पर, व्यापार घाटा 5.44 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर आंका गया है।

(ख) व्यापार घाटा निर्यात की तुलना में आयात अधिक होने से हुआ है। जहां आयात अर्थव्यवस्था की जरूरतों से जुड़ा है, तथापि वहां निर्यात अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ विभिन्न कारकों जैसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार परिस्थितियों, टैरिफ एवं गैर-टैरिफ कठिनाईयों, घरेलू बुनियादी सुविधाओं, निर्यात क्षेत्र लागत और नीतिगत ढांचे आदि पर निर्भर करता है।

Tobacco Export from Andhra Pradesh

4015. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Council for Applied Economic Research submitted any report to enhance tobacco exports from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in this regard;

(c) initiatives taken by Government to protect Andhra Pradesh farmers from any depression in tobacco export;

(d) whether it is a fact that no action has been taken to gain entry for tobacco export to USA market; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tobacco Board has already taken measures to achieve the objectives of some of the specific recommendations made in the study report.

(c) Some of the steps taken/being taken to assist farmers and to enhance exports include:—

(i) Exploring possibilities of entering into long term supply contracts with the tobacco processing plants in Russia.

(ii) Persuading Russian authorities through bilateral discussions to fully utilise the funds allocated under the rupee repayment funds for purchase of tobacco from India.

(iii) Facilitating contracts between importers from Russai and other CIS countries with Indian tobacco manufacturers and exporters through visits of trade delegations.

(iv) Permitting stock and sales of tobacco in CIS countries and exports on consignment basis against payment in freely convertible currencies.

(v) Encouraging the Indian exporters to set up offices in CIS countries.

(vi) Opening of 3 additional auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the growers to sell their produce early.

(vii) Persuading the Indian Tobacco Association, Exporters, manufacturers and other Traders to participate, actively in the auctions to absorb the tobacco crop produced.

(viii) Negotiating with tobacco trade to declare a Minimum Guarantee Price (MGP) for tobacco purchase